



fish for ponds and lakes come from hatchery-reared fish.

Habitats

constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; Mississippi River; Missouri River

Iowa Status

common; exotic

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

white amur

Ctenopharyngodon idella

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Cypriniformes
Order:	Cyprinidae

Features

The white amur (grass carp) has a chubby torpedo-shaped body. The mouth is at the tip of the snout with firm (not fleshy) lips and no barbels. Body color is dark olive shading to brownish yellow on the sides with a white belly. The scales are large with faint outlines. Adults attain lengths up to four feet and weigh more than 40 pounds. The state record caught in Greenfield Lake in Adair County was 61 1/2 pounds.

Natural History

The white amur was introduced in Iowa in 1973 to control nuisance aquatic plants in farm ponds and constructed lakes. It is widely distributed throughout the state and occasionally taken in commercial fishing catches from the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. It consumes huge amounts of vegetation and grows very rapidly. It eats aquatic plants (not algae). It has very specialized riverine spawning requirements, so